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10 NOV 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: US-Latin America Relations (C)

Gary Moser of the International Affairs Division, OMB, met with [redacted] of DDI/ALA Tuesday, 9 November, at 1:30 to discuss trends in US-Latin American trade and economic relations. Moser explained that he was doing a background paper for David Stockman in preparation for an NSC meeting to discuss the President's upcoming trip to Latin America. Moser indicated that he wanted to touch base with DDI analysts in order to check the "realities" of US-Latin American relations. In response, [redacted] gave a brief overview of their prognoses for US economic relations with Mexico, Costa Rica, and the major South American states as well as a capsule description of domestic economic prospects for these states. They noted that with the exception of Central America (excluding Mexico) and Argentina, they expected that within about five years Latin American economies would be back on track, showing sustained growth though not the spectacular increases of recent years. [redacted] noted that the trend in US-Latin American trade suggested that although overall trade would increase, the US economic position in the individual countries would erode. He cited diversification of trading partners, economic retrenchment, import restraints as well as a general lack of competitiveness by US companies. In response to some general questions about Mexico and Costa Rica, [redacted] promised to provide copies of recent assessments on those two countries. (C)

[redacted]
Deputy Chief, Intelligence Group

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